

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FAR MORE ARIZONA STUDENTS TAKING *SAT* COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES; HORNE NOTES RESULTS ARE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE

PHOENIX (Tuesday, August 28, 2007) -- State schools superintendent Tom Horne today announced the 2007 results for the Scholastic Aptitude Test and Advanced Placement exams. On the SAT exam, Arizona students scored 519 in critical reading while the national average is 502. In math, Arizona pupils scored 525 compared to 515 nationally. And in writing, the Arizona results were a score of 502 with the national average being 494. Any difference of eight points is considered statistically significant.

“Over the past five years, our emphasis on academic rigor in the classroom has resulted in a 19 percent increase in the percentage of students taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test, while maintaining Arizona’s scores above the national average,” Horne said.

Of particular note is the increased participation of underserved students taking Advanced Placement courses and exams. African-American students were up 35.8 percent in one year, and Hispanic students were up 40.3 percent also in one year.

“This increase in participation is the result of the focus of the Arizona Department of Education committing to increase the availability of Advanced Placement course work, especially among students living in areas with high rates of poverty,” Horne added.

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